

# POI

The other level *pointblank* at the inventing of caufes and axioms. *Bacon.*

Unless it be the cannon ball,  
That shot it's air *pointblank* upright,  
Was born to that prodigious height,  
That learn'd philoſophers maintain,  
It ne'er came back. *Hudibras, p. ii.*

The faculties that were given us for the glory of our matter, are turned *pointblank* againſt the intention of them: *L'Eſtr.*  
Eſtius declares, that although all the ſchoolmen were for Latria to be given to the croſs, yet that it is *pointblank* againſt the definition of the council of Nice. *Stillingfleet.*

23. *Point de viſe*; exact or exactly in the point of view.  
Every thing about you ſhould demonſtrate a careleſs deſolation; but you are rather *point de viſe* in your accoutrements, as loving yourſelf, than the lover of another. *Shakeſp.*

I will baffle Sir Toby, I will waſh off groſs acquaintance, I will be *point de viſe* the very man. *Shakeſp.*

Men's behaviour ſhould be like their apparel, not too ſtraight or *point de viſe*, but free for exerciſe. *Bacon.*

To *POINT*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To ſharpen; to forge or grind to a point.

The princes of Germany had but a dull fear of the greatneſs of Spain; now that fear is ſharpener and *pointed*, by the Spaniards late enterprizes upon the Palatinate. *Bacon.*

Part-new grind the blunted ax, and *point* the dart. *Dryd.*

What help will all my heav'nly friends afford,  
When to my breaſt I liſt the *pointed* ſword. *Dryden.*

The two pinnæ ſtand upon either ſide, like the wings in the petafus of a Mercury, but riſe much higher, and are more *pointed*. *Addiſon on Italy.*

Some on *pointed* wood  
Transfix'd the fragments, ſome prepar'd the food. *Pope.*

2. To direct towards an object, by way of forcing it on the notice.

Alas to make me  
A fixed figure, for the hand of ſcorn  
To *point* his flow unmeaning finger at. *Shakeſp. Othello.*

Mount Hermon, yonder ſea, each place behold  
As I *point*. *Milton.*

3. To direct the eye or notice.  
Whoever ſhould be guided through his battles by Minerva, and *pointed* to every ſcene of them, would ſee nothing but ſubjects of ſurprize. *Pope.*

4. To ſhow as by directing the finger.  
From the great ſea, you ſhall *point* out for you mount Hor. *Numb. xxxiv. 7.*

It will become us, as rational creatures, to follow the direction of nature, where it ſeems to *point* us out the way. *Locke.*

I ſhall do juſtice to thoſe who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in learning, and *point* out their beauties. *Addiſon.*

Is not the elder  
By nature *pointed* out for preference? *Rome.*

5. [*Pointer*, Fr.] To direct towards a place: as, the cannon were *pointed* againſt the fort.

6. To diſtinguiſh by ſtops or points.  
To *POINT*. *v. n.*

1. To note with the finger; to force upon the notice, by directing the finger towards it. With *at* commonly, ſometimes to before the thing indigited.

Now muſt the world *point at* poor Catharine,  
And ſay, lo! there is mad Petruchio's wife. *Shakeſp.*

Sometimes we uſe one finger only, as in *pointing at* any thing. *Ray on the Creation.*

Who fortune's fault upon the poor can throw,  
*Point at* the tatter'd coat and ragged ſhoe. *Dryden.*

Rouſe up for flame! our brothers of Phariſaia  
*Point at* their wounds, and cry aloud to battle. *Addiſon.*

2. To diſtinguiſh words or ſentences by points.

Fond the Jews are of their method of *pointing*. *Forbes.*

3. To indicate as dogs do to ſportſmen.

The ſubtle dog ſcow'rs with ſagacious noſe,  
Now the warm ſcent allures the covey near,  
He treads with caution, and he *points* with fear. *Gay.*

4. To ſhow.

To *point* at what time the balance of power was moſt equally held between their lords and commons in Rome, would perhaps admit a controverſy. *Swift.*

*POINTED*. *adj.* or *participle*. [from *point*.]  
1. Sharp; having a ſharp point or pic.

Who now reads Cowley? if he pleaſes, yet  
His moral pleaſes, not his *pointed* wit; *Pope.*

A *pointed* flinty rock, all bare and black,  
Grew gibbous from behind. *Dryden.*

2. Epigrammatical; abounding in conceits.

*POINTEDLY*. *adv.* [from *pointed*.] In a pointed manner.

The copiouſneſs of his wit was ſuch, that he often writ too *pointedly* for his ſubject. *Dryden.*

*POINTEDNESS*. *n. f.* [from *pointed*.]  
1. Sharpneſs; pickedeſs with aſperity.

The vicious language is vaſt and gaping, ſwelling and irregular; when it contends to be high, full of rock, mountain and *pointedneſs*. *Bonj. Johnson's Diſcovery.*

2. Epigrammatical ſmartneſs.  
Like Horace, you only expoſe the follies of men; and in this excel him, that you add *pointedneſs* of thought. *Dryden.*

*POINTEL*. *n. f.* Any thing on a point.  
Theſe poiſes or *pointels* are, for the moſt part, little balls, ſet at the top of a ſlender ſtalk, which they can move every way at pleaſure. *Derham's Phyſico-Theology.*

*POINTER*. *n. f.* [from *point*.]  
1. Any thing that points.  
I ought to tell him what are the wheels, ſprings, *pointer*, hammer and bell whereby a clock gives notice of the time. *Watts.*

2. A dog that points out the game to ſportſmen.  
The well taught *pointer* leads the way,  
The ſcent grows warm; he ſtops, he ſprings his prey. *Gay.*

*POINTINGSTOCK*. *n. f.* [*pointing* and *stock*.] Something made the object of ridicule.  
I, his ſorlorn dutcheſs,  
Was made a wonder and a *pointingſtock* *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*

To every idle raſcal follower.

*POINTLESS*. *adj.* [from *point*.] Blunt; not ſharp; obtuſe.  
Lay that *pointleſs* clergy-weapon by,  
And to the laws, your ſword of juſtice, fly. *Dryden.*

*POISON*. *n. f.* [*poison*, Fr.] That which deſtroys or injures life by a ſmall quantity, and by means not obvious to the ſenſes; venom.  
The tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly *poison*. *Ja.*

Themſelves were firſt to do the ill,  
E'er they thereof the knowledge could attain;  
Like him that knew not *poison*'s power to kill,  
Until, by taſting it, himſelf was ſlain. *Davies.*

One gives another a cup of *poison*, but at the ſame time tells him it is a cordial, and ſo he drinks it off and dies. *South.*

To *POISON*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To infect with *poison*.  
Envy is a lawleſs enemy, againſt whom *poisoned* arrows may be uſed. *Anonymous.*

2. To attack, injure or kill by *poison* given.  
He was ſo diſcouraged, that he *poisoned* himſelf and died. *Mac. x. 13.*

3. To corrupt; to taint.  
Drink with Walters, or with Chartres eat;  
They'll never *poison* you, they'll only cheat. *Pope.*

4. To corrupt; to taint.  
The other meſſenger,  
Whoſe welcome I perceiv'd, had *poison'd* mine. *Shakeſp.*

Haſt thou not  
With thy falſe arts *poison'd* his people's loyalty? *Rome.*

*POISON-TREE*. *n. f.* [*toxicodendron*.] A plant. The flower conſiſts of five leaves, which are placed orbicularly, and expand in form of a roſe, out of whoſe flower cup riſes the pointal, which afterwards becomes a roundiſh, dry, and for the moſt part a ſurrow'd fruit, in which is contained one compreſſed ſeed. *Miller.*

*POISONER*. *n. f.* [from *poison*.]  
1. One who poiſons.  
I muſt be the *poisoner*  
Of good Polixenes. *Shakeſp.*

So many miſchiefs were in one combin'd;  
So much one ſingle *poisoner* coſt mankind. *Dryden.*

2. A corrupter.  
Wretches who live upon other men's ſins, the common *poisoners* of youth, getting their very bread by the damnation of ſouls. *South's Sermons.*

*POISONOUS*. *adj.* [from *poison*.] Venomous; having the qualities of *poison*.  
Theſe cold ways,  
That ſeem like prudent helps, are very *poisonous*,  
Where the diſeaſe is violent. *Shakeſp. Coriolanus.*

Not ſtrius ſhoots a fiercer flame,  
When with his *poisonous* breath he blaſts the ſky. *Dryden.*

A lake, that has no freſh water running into it, will, by heat and its ſtagnation, turn into a ſtinking rotten puddle, ſending forth nauſeous and *poisonous* ſteam. *Cheyn.*

*POISONOUSLY*. *adv.* [from *poisonous*.] Venomouſly.  
Men more eaſily pardon ill things done, than ill things ſaid; ſuch a peculiar rancour and venom do they leave behind in men's minds, and ſo much more *poisonously* and incurably does the ſerpent bite with his tongue than his teeth. *South's Sermons.*

*POISONOUSNESS*. *n. f.* [from *poisonous*.] The quality of being *poisonous*; venomouſneſs.

*POITREL*. *n. f.* [*poitrel*, *pairrine*, Fr. *pettorale*, Italian; *pettorale*, Lat.]  
1. Armour for the breaſt of a horſe. *Skinner.*

2. A graving tool. *Ainsworth.*

*POIZE*. *n. f.* [*poiz*, French.]  
1. Weight; force of any thing tending to the center.  
He fell, as an huge rockie cliff,  
Whoſe falſe foundation, waves have waſh'd away  
With dreadful *poize*, is from the main land reft. *F. Queen.*

When I have ſuit,  
It ſhall be full of *poize* and difficulty, *Shakeſp. Othello.*

And fearful to be granted. *2. Balance*

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2. Balance; equipoiſe; equilibrium.  
To do't at peril of your ſoul,  
Ware equal *poize* of ſin and charity. *Shakeſp.*

Where an equal *poize* of hope and fear  
Does arbitrate th' event, my nature is  
That I incline to hope. *Milton.*

The particles that formed the earth, muſt convene from all quarters towards the middle, which would make the whole compound to reſt in a *poize*. *Bentley's Sermons.*

'Tis odd to ſee fluctuation in opinion ſo earneſtly charged upon Luther, by ſuch as have lived half their days in a *poize* between two churches. *Atterbury.*

3. A regulating power.  
Men of an unbounded imagination often want the *poize* of judgment. *Dryden.*

To *POIZE*. *v. a.* [*poizer*, French.]  
1. To balance; to hold or place in equiponderance.  
How nice to couch? how all her ſpeeches *poized* be:  
A nymph thus turn'd, but mended in tranſlation. *Sidney.*

As the ſands  
Of Barca or Cyrene's torrid ſoil,  
Levy'd to ſide with warring winds, and *poize*  
Their lighter wings. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. ii.*

Nor yet was earth ſuſpended in the ſky,  
Nor *poize'd* did on her own foundation lie. *Dryden.*

Our nation with united int'reſt bleſt,  
Nor now content to *poize*, ſhall ſway the reſt. *Dryden.*

Where could they find another form'd ſo fit,  
To *poize* with ſolid ſenſe a ſprightly wit? *Dryden.*

Th' all-perfect mind  
That *poize'd*, impels and rules the ſteady whole. *Thomſon.*

2. To be equiponderant to.  
If the balance of our lives had not one ſcale of reaſon to *poize* another of ſenſuality, the baleneſs of our natures would conduct us to prepoſterous concluſions. *Shakeſp. Othello.*

3. To weigh.  
We *poizing* us in her defective ſcale  
Shall weigh thee to the beam. *Shakeſp.*

He cannot ſincerely conſider the ſtrength, *poize* the weight and diſcern the evidence of the cleareſt arguments, where they would conclude againſt his deſires. *South's Sermons.*

4. To oppreſs with weight.  
I'll ſtrive, with troubl'd thoughts, to take a nap,  
Left leaden ſlumber *poize* me down to-morrow,  
When I ſhould mount with wings of victory. *Shakeſp.*

*POKE*. *n. f.* [*pocca*, Sax. *peche*, Fr.] A pocket; a ſmall bag.  
I will not buy a pig in a *poke*. *Camden's Remains.*

She ſuddenly unties the *poke*,  
Which out of it ſent ſuch a ſmoke,  
As ready was them all to choke,  
So grievous was the pothe. *Dryden's Nymphid.*

My correſpondent writes againſt maſter's gowns and *poke* sleeves. *Spectator, N° 619.*

To *POKE*. *v. a.* [*poka*, Swediſh.] To ſeek in the dark; to ſearch any thing with a long inſtrument.

If theſe preſumed eyes be clipped off, they will make uſe of their protrufions or horns, and *poke* out their way as before. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*

*POKER*. *n. f.* [from *poke*.] The iron bar with which men ſtir the fire.  
With *poker* fiery red  
Crack the ſtones, and melt the lead. *Swift.*

If the *poker* be out of the way, ſtir the fire with the tongs. *Swift's Rules to Servants.*

*POLAR*. *adj.* [*polaire*, Fr. from *pole*.] Found near the pole; lying near the pole; iſſuing from the pole.

As when two *polar* winds, blowing adverſe  
Upon the Cronian ſea, together drive  
Mountains of ice. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. x.*

I doubt  
If any ſuffer on the *polar* coaſt,  
The rage of Arctos, and eternal froſt. *Prior.*

*POLARITY*. *n. f.* [from *polar*.] Tendency to the pole.  
This *polarity* from refrigeration, upon extremity and deſect of a loadſtone, might touch a needle any where. *Brown.*

*POLARY*. *adj.* [*polaris*, Lat.] Tending to the pole; having a direction towards the poles.

Irons, heated red hot, and cooled in the meridian from North to South, contract a *polar* power. *Brown.*

*POLE*. *n. f.* [*polus*, Lat. *pole*, Fr.]  
1. The extremity of the axis of the earth; either of the points on which the world turns.

From the centre thence to the utmoſt *pole*. *Milton.*

From *pole* to *pole*  
The forky lightnings flaſh, the roaring thunders roll. *Dry.*

[*Pole*, Sax. *pala*, *pau*, Fr. *pala*, Italian, and Spaniſh; *palus*, Lat.] A long ſtaff.

A long *pole*, ſtruck upon gravel in the bottom of the water, maketh a found. *Bacon's Nat. Hiſtory.*

If after ſome diſtinguiſh'd leap,  
He drops his *pole*, and ſeems to ſlip;

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Straight gath'ring all his active ſtrength,  
He riſes higher. *Prior.*

He ordered to arm long *poles* with ſharp hooks, wherewith they took hold of the tackling which held the mainyard to the maſt, then rowing the ſhip, they cut the tackling, and brought the mainyard by the board. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

3. A tall piece of timber erected.  
Wither'd is the garland of the war,  
The ſoldier's *pole* is fall'n. *Shakeſp. Ant. and Cleop.*

Live to be the ſhow and gaze o' th' time,  
We'll have thee as our rarer monſters are  
Painted upon a *pole*, and underwit,  
Here may you ſee the tyrant. *Shakeſp.*

4. A meaſure of length containing five yards and a half.  
This ordinance of tithing them by the *pole* is not only fit for the gentlemen, but alſo the noblemen. *Spencer.*

Every *pole* ſquare of mud, twelve inches deep, is worth fix pence a *pole* to ſling out. *Mortimer's Huſbandry.*

5. An inſtrument of meaſuring.  
A peer of the realm and a counſellor of ſtate are not to be meaſured by the common yard, but by the *pole* of ſpecial grace. *Bacon.*

To *POLE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To furniſh with poles.  
Begin not to *pole* your hops. *Mortimer's Huſbandry.*

*POLEAXE*. *n. f.* [*pole* and *axe*.] An axe fixed to a long pole.  
To beat religion into the brains with a *poleaxe*, is to offer victims of human blood. *Hovel's England's Tears.*

One hung a *poleaxe* at his ſaddle bow,  
And one a heavy mace to ſhun the foe. *Dryden.*

*POLECAT*. *n. f.* [*Pole* or *Polish* cat, becauſe they abound in Poland.] The ſtitchew; a ſtinking animal.

*Polecats*? there are fairer things than *polecats*. *Shakeſp.*

Out of my door, you witch! you hag, you *polecat*! out, out, out; I'll conjure you. *Shakeſp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

She, at a pin in the wall, hung like a *polecat* in a warren, to amuſe them. *L'Eſtrange.*

How ſhould he, harmleſs youth,  
Who kill'd but *polecats*, learn to murder men. *Gay.*

*POLEDAVIES*. *n. f.* A fort of coarſe cloth. *Ainsworth.*

*POLEMICAL*. *adj.* [*πολεμικός*.] Controverſial; diſputative.

I have had but little reſpite from theſe *polemical* exerciſes, and, notwithstanding all the rage and malice of the adverſaries of our church, I ſit down contented. *Stillingfleet.*

The nullity of this diſtinction has been ſolidly ſhewn by moſt of our *polemical* writers of the proteſtant church. *South.*

The beſt method to be uſed with theſe *polemical* ladies, is to ſhew them the ridiculous ſide of their cauſe. *Addiſon.*

*POLEMICK*. *n. f.* Diſputant; controverſiſt.  
Each ſtaunch *polemick* ſtubborn as a rock,  
Came whip and ſpur. *Dunciad, b. iv.*

*POLEMOSCOPE*. *n. f.* [*πολεμικός* and *σκοπία*.] In opticks, is a kind of crooked or oblique perſpective glaſs, contrived for ſeeing objects that do not lie directly before the eye. *Diſ.*

*POLSTAR*. *n. f.* [*pole* and *ſtar*.]  
1. A ſtar near the pole, by which navigators compute their northern latitude; cynoſure; lodestar.

If a pilot at ſea cannot ſee the *polstar*, let him ſteer his courſe by ſuch ſtars as beſt appear to him. *King Charles.*

I was failing in a vaſt ocean without other help than the *polstar* of the ancients. *Dryden.*

2. Any guide or director.

*POLY-MOUNTAIN*. *n. f.* [*polium*, Lat.] A plant.

The *poly-mountain* hath a labiated flower, conſiſting of one leaf, whoſe ſtamina ſupply the place of a creſt; the beard is divided into five ſegments as the germander; out of the flower cup riſes the pointal, attended, as it were, by four embryos, which afterward become ſo many ſeeds ſhut up in the flower cup: the flowers are collected into an head upon the top of the ſtalks and branches. *Miller.*

*POLICE*. *n. f.* [French.] The regulation and government of a city or country, ſo far as regards the inhabitants.

*POLICED*. *adj.* [from *police*.] Regulated; formed into a regular courſe of adminiſtration.

Where there is a kingdom altogether unable or indigne to govern, it is a juſt cauſe of war for another nation, that is civil or *policed*, to ſubdue them. *Bacon's Holy War.*

*POLICY*. *n. f.* [*πολιτικά*; *politica*, Lat.]  
1. The art of government, chiefly with reſpect to foreign powers.